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Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission.
Montana Legacy: Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Master Plan Executive summary

MONTANA LEGACY

Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Master Plan
October 2000

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Executive Summary

The Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Master Plan is the result of a seven-month collaborative planning process led by the Montana Bicentennial Commission. Citizens, businesses, state and federal agencies, tribes and community representatives actively participated in identifying the priorities and programs recommended in the plan. Through this planning process, partnerships between groups already have been initiated or strengthened – and collaboration will be the key to successful Bicentennial preparation. These ongoing partnerships may be the Bicentennial's greatest legacies.

Whether Montanans are ready or not, the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial is coming. According to state and national research, millions of people will visit sites and communities along the Lewis & Clark Trail in Montana between 2003 and 2006. Many areas already are seeing increased visitation. Will the impacts and benefits of this national event be short-lived, or will preparations ensure that the Bicentennial leaves a positive legacy in Montana? The primary goal of this Master Plan is to maximize the opportunity for Bicentennial benefits.

Human imagination is rich and unpredictable. In every facet of the Commemoration, there will be people who come forward with diverse ideas on how to support, complement and exploit it. Without guiding principles or explicit values, activities could quickly become conflicting, undesirable or hurtful. Toward this end, the Montana Bicentennial Commission established a set of guiding principles to direct preparations for Bicentennial programs and events (summarized at right).

Hundreds of Bicentennial projects and events have been proposed to the Commission from around the state. During the planning process, the Commission and planning team reviewed and evaluated these proposals, along with data about Montana's Lewis & Clark sites, tourism, infrastructure and organizations. Based on this analysis, a five-point strategic framework was developed to address Bicentennial priorities and programming (see Figure 1, next page).

Each of the five points in the strategic framework will be linked to, informed by, and complementary to the others:

Bicentennial Commission's Guiding Principles

- Highest ethical standards
- Historical and cultural accuracy in interpretation and preservation programs
- Responsible stewardship, including potential social and environmental impacts
- An endorsement process that supports only high quality projects and events
- Objectivity in evaluating program and event proposals
- Emphasis on education in programs and events
- Fiscal responsibility in seeking and managing Bicentennial funds
- Partnerships and collaboration across all sectors
- Broad public participation – all perspectives are welcome and sought.

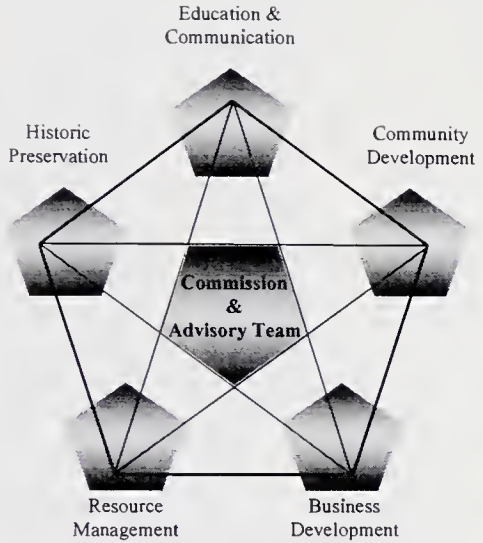

Figure 1. Five Point Strategic Framework

1. **Historic Preservation:** preservation of physical places, written and oral history, traditions, culture, and the natural environment surrounding historic places.
2. **Education and Communication**: development of school curricula, site interpretation, web sites, brochures, workshops, radio broadcasts, story telling, and enhanced regional cooperation and partnerships.
3. **Community Development**: improvements to downtowns, entry ways, restrooms, parks, roads, and public safety systems – another key legacy for Montanans; and events, festivals and reenactments to commemorate the Expedition's journey.
4. **Business Development**: return on investment in marketing efforts, lodging, tours, retail, hospitality training, services, and specialty product manufacturing.
5. **Resource Management:** enhanced amenities, adequate access, agency staffing, and means to protect historical, natural and cultural assets from negative impacts.

All endorsed Bicentennial projects fall within one or more of these five dimensions. In addition, these projects address Bicentennial goals, principles and criteria. Each program, project, event or investment in the Montana Strategy has been carefully evaluated to ensure that these standards are met.

The Master Plan is organized to ensure three things (see Figure 2). First, a comprehensive system – the strategic framework – will be put in place to sustain a successful Bicentennial experience for both Montanans and visitors. Second, lasting legacies in each of the five strategic dimensions will extend the Bicentennial benefits well into the future. Third, the overall quality of life for Montana's people will be improved through strategic Bicentennial programming.

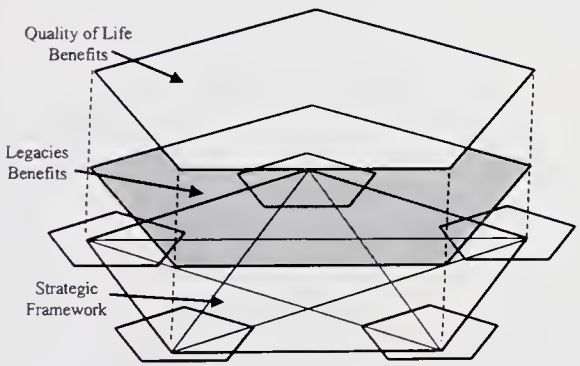

Fig. 2: The Strategic Framework and Its Residual Benefits

The Montana Bicentennial Commission is ideally suited to act as the central facilitator for programming and collaborations between participants to ensure that the Bicentennial brings lasting legacy and quality of life benefits. But the Commission is just one part of the team. Success will come from effective mutual support between the Commission, communities, tribes, state and federal agencies, citizens and businesses. This Master Plan provides the framework for a technical assistance and communication system between partners, so that Bicentennial opportunities and challenges can be addressed effectively and strategically.

Time is of the essence. There is much work to do, and significant opportunities await. The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide strategic preparations in such a way that Montanans benefit from the Bicentennial legacy.

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Detail of Lewis at Black Eagle Falls – Edgar S. Paxson

Courtesy of Montana Historical Society

Overview of Corps of Discovery's Montana Journey

1805	EVENT (WESTBOUND JOURNEY)	NEARBY TOWN
April 29	• Lewis kills first grizzly, describes as "by no means as formidable or dangerous as they have represented" (later changes his opinion). Sees abundant wildlife, minerals.	Culbertson
May 2	• Snow falls on Missouri amid blooming trees and flowers.	Brockton
May 8	• Milk River is named (Hidatsas' "River That Scolds At All Others").	Nashua
May 14	• Charbonneus's accident with white pirogue, Cruzatte and Sacagawea save boat and valuables; six hunters chased by grizzly (one into river) before killing it.	Jordan/ Hell Creek
May 19	• Lewis' dog Seaman severely bitten by beaver, severing artery, but survives.	Mosby
May 20	• Musselshell River and Sacagawea River are named.	Winnett
May 26	• Lewis' first view of Rocky Mountains.	Zortman
May 31	• Corps passes through White Cliffs.	Virgelle
June 2	• Corps reaches Decision Point at Marias River, explores upstream, caches specimens.	Loma
June 13/16	• Lewis finds Great Falls of Missouri; Lower Portage Camp established.	Great Falls
June 14	• Lewis explores falls to Sun River, sees herd of 1,000 bison, charged by grizzly.	Great Falls
June 18	• Lewis (correctly) describes Giant Springs as "largest freshwater spring in the nation".	Great Falls
June 23-30	• Corps completes portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri.	Great Falls
June 29	• Flash flood in ravine nearly kills Clark and Charbonneau family.	Great Falls
July 9	• 36-foot iron frame boat is completed, but leaks, has to be abandoned. Dugouts built.	Great Falls
July 14	• Corps proceeds upriver once again after portage.	Great Falls
July 15	• Smith River is named for Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith.	Ulm
July 18	• Dearborn River is named for Sec. of War Henry Dearborn; Clark searches for Shoshones.	Craig
July 19	• Lewis writes about the "Gates of the Rocky Mountains".	Helena
July 22	• Sacagawea recognizes country near Beaver Creek, says Three Forks are not far ahead.	Townsend
July 25	• Clark reaches Three Forks, followed by Lewis, main party on July 27th. Corps camps where Sacagawea was kidnapped by Hidatsas five years earlier.	Three Forks
Aug. 4/8	• Lewis reaches the Beaverhead River; Sacagawea recognizes Beaverhead Rock.	Twin Bridges
Aug. 11	• Lewis first spots a Shoshone Indian.	Dillon
Aug. 12/13	• Lewis reaches Continental Divide, meets Shoshones in Idaho.	Lemhi
Aug. 15	• Lewis returns over Divide with 60 Lemhi Shoshones and horses.	Lemhi Pass
Aug. 17	• Lewis & Shoshones reunite w/ Clark at Camp Fortunate. Sacagawea recognizes Cameahwait.	Dillon
Aug. 18	• Lewis' 31st birthday; Clark travels to Shoshone village for horses, scouts Salmon River.	Lemhi
Aug. 26	• Corps camps with Lemhi Shoshones in Lemhi Valley, Idaho; travels to Lost Trail Pass.	Tendoy
Sept. 3.	• Corps crosses Lost Trail Pass to Bitterroot Valley; meets Salish Indians at Ross' Hole.	Sula
Sept. 7	• Expedition camps near Sleeping Child Creek.	Hamilton
Sept. 9	• Corps arrives at Lolo Creek, names it Travelers' Rest, stays until Sept. 11th.	Lolo
Sept. 13	• Clark arrives at Lolo Hot Springs; Corps crosses Lolo Pass into Idaho.	Lolo

Overview of Corps of Discovery's Montana Journey (continued)

1806	EVENT (EASTBOUND JOURNEY)	NEARBY TOWN
June 29	• Lewis notes "we bid adieu to the snow," arriving via Lolo Pass at Lolo Hot Springs.	Lolo
June 30	• Corps stops again at Travelers' Rest.	Lolo
July 3-7	• Lewis leaves Travelers' Rest, follows Blackfoot River, crosses Lewis & Clark Pass.	Lincoln
July 3-6	• Clark party celebrates July 4th, arrives at Big Hole, Sacagawea guides the way.	Hamilton
July 7	• Clark boils meat in Warm Springs Creek.	Jackson
July 8	• Clark again reaches Camp Fortunate, raises canoes and other cached supplies.	Dillon
July 11	• Lewis reaches mouth of Sun River on Missouri, sees "10 thousand buffaloe..."	Great Falls
July 11	• Clark proceeds down Jefferson River, passes Beaverhead Rock.	Twin Bridges
July 13	• Clark arrives at Three Forks; Ordway, 9 men continue down Missouri to meet Lewis.	Three Forks
July 15	• Clark crosses Bozeman Pass, reaches Yellowstone River.	Livingston
July 16	• Lewis travels up the Marias with Field brothers and Drouillard.	Fort Benton
July 18	• Clark camps near Stillwater River; Gibson falls off horse, sustaining serious injury.	Columbus
July 19-26	• Ordway party meets Gass & Lewis' men at Great Falls, portage gear around falls.	Great Falls
July 19	• Clark stops to build canoes, stays until July 24; party loses 24 horses on July 21.	Park City
July 22	• Lewis reaches northernmost point on journey – the headwaters of Cut Bank Creek.	Cut Bank
July 24	• Clark writes of "increditable" numbers of animal species along the river - esp. "Musquetors"; Pryor departs overland with 3 men and horses to Mandan Villages.	Billings
July 25	• Clark arrives at Pompeys Pillar ("Pompy's Tower"), carves name & date in stone.	Pompeys Plr
July 26	• Lewis discouraged by cloudy weather (preventing observations), heads to Missouri.	Meriwether
July 27	• Lewis party skirmishes with Piegan Indians, 1 Piegan stabbed to death, 1 shot.	Valier
July 27	• Clark: "I take my leave of...the tremendious chain of Rocky Mountains..."	Custer
July 28	• Lewis reunites with Ordway at mouth of Marias, departs immediately downstream.	Loma
July 29	• Clark camps at Tongue River, notes "Coal in great quantities" in surrounding hills.	Miles City
July 30	• Clark names "Buffalow Sholes," "from...one of those animals being in them."	Miles City
Aug. 3	• Clark reaches mouth of Yellowstone, leaves note for Lewis, continues downstream.	Fairview
Aug. 4	• Gass: "Having proceeded 88 miles we encamped for the night." (Lewis party)	Frazer
Aug. 7	• Lewis party reaches mouth of Yellowstone, sees note from Clark and proceeds on.	Fort Union
Aug. 8	• Pryor party (in bull boats) catches Clark, after horses stolen by Crow near Hardin.	Tobacco Crk
Aug. 12	• • Corps reunited when Lewis catches up with Clark near New Town, North Dakota.	New Town

Detail of York, Explorers at the Portage, Broadwater Overlook Park, Great Falls